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PROGRAM The Today Show

STATION WRC-TV
NBC Network

DATE December 29, 1982 7:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Illegal Arms Shipments

LLOYD DOBYNS: Former CIA man Edwin Wilson has been sent to prison for illegally shipping arms to Europe. Next week he's scheduled to stand trial for the illegal shipment of 20 tons of explosives to Libya. Now NBC News has learned that Wilson allegedly sent some of those explosives to Rotterdam in order to pass them on to the PLO.

Alexander Raffio, who worked for Edwin Wilson for nearly five years in Libya, is in our Washington studio with NBC correspondent Susan Peterson, who has been covering this story.

Mr. Raffio, we understand that you turned yourself in to federal authorities with this information last week. Could you tell us why? Why now?

ALEXANDER RAFFIO: I turned myself in essentially because I felt that the transfer of this kind of material just couldn't take place.

SUSAN PETERSON: How did you know the PLO was going to be the customer for this shipment of explosives?

RAFFIO: Well, prior to Mr. Wilson being arrested, I was present at a number of meetings when he discussed the transfer with the PLO, but at the time they seemed very disinterested.

PETERSON: At first you didn't think the shipments or the drums were filled with explosives.

RAFFIO: No. They were always referred to as chemicals when it was discussed with the people in Rotterdam. And the code name for those chemicals was Soap. And as far as I knew, up till